

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-11 are pending in the present application, with claims 1 and 11 being independent. Claims 9-11 have been added by this amendment, which do not add any new subject matter.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejected: claims 1-5 and 7-8 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over *Youn et al.* (US 5,966,284) in view of *Lum et al.* (US 6,312,175); and claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over *Youn et al.* as modified by *Lum et al.* and further in view of *Heys, Jr.* (US 5,153,589). These rejections are respectfully traversed insofar as they pertain to the presently pending claims.

Independent claim 1 is directed to a keyboard having a housing that receives a keypad, associated keyboard electronic circuitry, and at least one card reader, with a slot for guiding a card, along with auxiliary components. The housing is formed of one piece of material thereby forming an upper housing shell and an S-shaped lower housing shell whose backside joins the upper housing shell seamlessly. Furthermore, the upper housing shell supports the

keypad and the keyboard electronic circuitry and the lower housing shell contains the auxiliary components that are electrically coupled via plug couplings with the keyboard electronic circuitry, whereby the plug couplings extend from the upper housing shell into the lower housing shell.

The Examiner alleges that claim 1 is obvious in view of the combination of *Youn et al.* and *Lum et al.* Applicants respectfully submit that neither *Youn et al.* nor *Lum et al.*, either alone or in combination teach or suggest at least that the housing is formed of one piece of material thereby forming an upper housing shell and an S-shaped lower housing shell whose backside joins the upper housing shell seamlessly, as recited in independent claim 1.

The Examiner alleges, with respect to *Youn et al.* that there is a seamless joining of the keyboard 12 and the lower portion (which Applicants understand to be the pocket 20 and not the recess 46, based on the Examiner's description). Referring to any of the figures in *Youn et al.* it can be readily seen that the keyboard 12 and the pocket 20 are not formed of one piece of material. Additionally, *Youn et al.* teaches an apparatus for mounting a keyboard to a portable computer and therefore, as should now be apparent, does not teach or even remotely suggest a housing as claimed in independent claim 1.

Furthermore, the Examiner acknowledges that *Youn et al.* fails to disclose keyboard circuitry, an electrical connection between the keyboard and the base, and a card reader that is part of the base portion. The Examiner relies on *Lum et al.* to teach a housing for receiving at least one card reader.

Applicants respectfully submit that *Lum et al.*, as stated above, fails to make up for the above-mentioned deficiencies of *Youn et al.* Therefore, the Examiner has failed to substantiate an obviousness rejection. In other words, the combination of the prior art does not render claim 1 *prima facie* obvious.

Dependent claims 2-10 should be considered allowable at least for depending from an allowable base claim. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection as applied to claims 1-10.

Lastly, new independent claim 11 should be considered allowable at least because the cited prior art fails to teach or suggest the combination of elements including that the upper shell portion, the lower shell portion and the rising are integrally molded such that the keyboard housing is formed as one-piece.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, this application

appears to be in condition for allowance and the Examiner is, therefore, requested to reexamine the application and pass the claims to issue.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Martin R. Geissler (Reg. 51,011) at telephone number (703) 205-8000, which is located in the Washington, DC area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments



PATENT
4106-0111P

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: HOCHGESANG et al. Conf.: 6849

Appl. No.: 09/902,539 Group: 2876

Filed: July 11, 2001 Examiner: Daniel A. HESS

For: KEYBOARD, PREFERABLY FOR CASHIER REGISTERS

LARGE ENTITY TRANSMITTAL FORM

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

May 6, 2003

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application.

- The enclosed document is being transmitted via the Certificate of Mailing provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.8.
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The fee has been calculated as shown below:

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TOTAL	11	-	20	=	0	\$ 18	\$ 0.00
INDEPENDENT	2	-	3	=	0	\$ 84	\$ 0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> FIRST PRESENTATION OF A MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM						\$280	\$ 0.00
						TOTAL	\$ 0.00

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ABSTRACT

Fig. 1

The invention concerns a keyboard, preferably for cashier registers.

Known keyboards (20) have a plurality of keyboard housing (1) parts so that, when they are serviced, exchanging or refurbishing the keypad (5), also often the associated keyboard electronic circuitry (8) must be taken out of the keyboard housing (1) in order to replace defective, or integrate additional, auxiliary components (19) in the keyboard (20) or the keyboard housing (1).

Contrary to this, in the solution disclosed herein, the keyboard housing A keyboard housing (1) is built of one piece of material, with the keyboard housing being formed of an upper housing shell (2) and a joining S-shaped lower housing shell(3). In this regard, the keyboard housing (1) is preferably of resinous plastic. The keypad (5) and, for example, the keyboard electronic circuitry are contained in the upper housing shell(2), with the auxiliary components (19) being in the lower housing shell(3).

- Petition for () month(s) extension of time pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a). \$0.00 for the extension of time.
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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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